

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WATER RESOURCES STUDY COMMITTEE**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington St., Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789**

November 2007

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Water Resources Study Committee

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**Bernadette Bartlett, Fiscal Analyst
Irma Reinumagi, Attorney**

November 1, 2007

INFORMATION REPORT

Water Resources Study Committee

I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE

IC 2-5-25-5 directs the Water Resources Study Committee to study and may make recommendations concerning all matters relating to the surface and ground water resources of Indiana, including the following:

- (1) The usage, quality, and quantity of water resources.
- (2) Issues concerning diffused surface water, the common enemy doctrine of law, and runoff.

House Enrolled Act 1738 (Section 5) from the 2007 Legislative Session required the Committee to study and make findings and recommendations concerning the following:

- (1) Current processes and methods used in determining water resource allocation and distribution in Indiana.
- (2) Appropriate policies governing future water resource allocation and distribution planning in Indiana.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM

The Committee met twice during the 2007 interim session: on August 2 and October 9. The Committee heard reports from state agencies that oversee the regulation of water resources, including the Department of Natural Resources, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. The Committee heard reports pertaining to current processes and methods used in determining water resource allocation and distribution in Indiana, including a report from the Water Shortage Task Force; a report from the State Climatologist on the effects of future climate change on the water resources of the state; and a report on the Great Lakes Compact.

The Committee voted 11-0 to support the concept of joining the Great Lakes Compact.

The Committee is not required to file a final report.

Meeting minutes for the Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.